

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,094,187 to Jones et al. (“Jones”) and the disclosure on pages 1-2 of the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection.

I. Formal Matters

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicants’ claim of foreign priority. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants’ claim of foreign priority in the next Office Action.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to more fully define the invention.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

A. Claim 1

The drive methods recited in the amended claim 1 are characterized in that the number of light emissions allotted to each of the discharge cells inside a discharge cell block are varied for each field (changed field by field).

It is believed that the method of claim 1 cannot be realized even if the disclosure of Jones is combined with disclosure on pages 1-2 of the specification.

In Jones, the number of grayscale levels is increased by a temporal or spatial dither arrangement. Figure 4 illustrates the timing of strobe signals 50, 51, and 52 applied to a particular row electrode track to achieve temporal dither. See Jones, col. 7, line 59 - col. 8, line

7. Three select periods 53, 54, and 55 are defined to assume the ratio 1:4:16 in which the pixel can be switched to the black state, the white state, or any intermediate analogue grey state. Id. With this scheme, the perceived overall gray level within the frame is the average of the transmission levels within the three subframes defined by the select periods 53, 54, and 55. Id.

Jones also discloses a spatial dithering arrangement. The spatial dither arrangement is illustrated in Figs. 5A and 5B. See also Jones, col. 8, lines 7-17 and lines 32-45. As shown in Figure 5a, each pixel is constituted by two sub-pixels 56, 57. As shown in Figure 5b, each colour subpixel is divided into four sub-pixels 58, 59, 60, 61. In the arrangement shown in Fig. 5b, the four subpixels 58, 59, 60, and 61 have areas in the ratio xy: bxy: axy: abxy, respectively. If a and b are not equal, four different weightings are provided by the subpixels 58, 59, 60, and 61 and it is possible to produce sixteen different gray levels for each colour by switching of different combinations of these subpixels. Jones, col. 8, lines 37-42. In the spatial dither arrangement of Jones the weightings of the subpixels 58, 59, 60, 61 are dependent on the areas of the subpixels which are in the ratio xy:bxy:axy:abxy. Thus, the weightings of the subpixels cannot be changed once produced.

Jones does not teach or suggest a method of driving a plasma display panel wherein the number of light emissions allotted to each discharge cell inside a discharge cell block is varied for each subfield.

In view of the disclosure of Jones described above, we believe that the claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the present rejection.

B. Claim 2

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1. Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable at least based on its dependency on claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

C. Claim 3

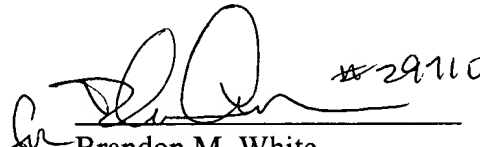
Claim 3 recites claim language similar to claim 1. For the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over the cited art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the present rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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